



Cromarty Rum, anyone?

A gin distillery has been submitted as an idea for Townlands Barn, as the CCDT continues the search for a new role for Cromarty's oldest building.

But it seems there are already too many such operations right across Scotland, and that another spirit should be considered - rum.

A distillery was a late suggestion from a resident, but it was just one among several that were discussed when CCDT directors recently met Peter McIlhenny, a partner in LDN Architects.

They have offices in Edinburgh and Forres, and Peter had come to Cromarty to discuss options for Townlands Barn. But he is also the project manager for Albyn Housing's proposed housing development in the field beside the park, although is not working on the plans himself. Both barn and houses were discussed.

Peter said that if the CCDT was prepared to work in tandem with Albyn, LDN would work pro bono on the barn for the time being. This generous offer was readily accepted. Having a prestigious architectural practice, working for free will be a huge benefit to the trust. It was always going to make sense to have the two projects closely aligned.

Housing plans have been submitted to Albyn by LDN. They will be forwarded to the community council and the CCDT for consideration. Albyn have been "stretched" on other projects, but Cromarty's is at last gaining momentum.

Following consideration of the plans by the community council and the development trust, there will be a public consultation before any decision is made.

It was confirmed that Albyn had dismissed High Street access as a possibility thus removing need to demolish the old dairy. It might yet be reconsidered, however, as a one-way entrance to the barn and site. Establishing suitable access has been one of the major hold-ups to their planning.

The CCDT's agreed proposals for the barn – mixed rental and workshops – were discussed as was the idea of a gin distillery. Peter has worked on many conversions of listed buildings and is a proponent of maximum flexibility of use. This fits with the CCDT's thinking.

He cited and is going to send details of various relevant projects he has planned. These include the Old Basin House in Glasgow for Scottish Canals, and The Boatman's Tower in Stornoway for the Stornoway Trust.

They have involved a relatively minimalist approach – structural stabilisation and restoration with a basic installation of services allowing a variety of internal layouts and uses.

He has also worked on a gin distillery. There are now more than 100 in Scotland and gin production is thought to have peaked. He said Rum was the coming thing! This idea will go into the mix of his thoughts on the barn. Rum might well fit Cromarty's maritime heritage.

Peter's ideas and recommendations, his experience with comparable projects, his work for Albyn and LDN and his connections with HES and other bodies will be extremely beneficial and will help the CCDT shape a realistic project.

Next stage is for Peter to come back with some initial proposals, with the community being kept informed.

Power to the Thrift Shop

Progress is being made, albeit slowly, in getting the old dairy connected to the electricity mains. Weeks after initial contact was made, SSE came back to say the trust's request had to be treated as an application from a new

customer. But then SSE later acknowledged that it would not be a new connection. However depending on how long it is since there was last a supply, they may have to replace the underground cable.

Obviously this could mean more delay. There has been an offer of a generator as a fallback, but clearly it would not be ideal.

Slipways

Applications for marine licences have been submitted to Marine Scotland for the slipways at Nigg and Cromarty. The trust is hoping to persuade Marine Scotland to treat them as one application. Public advertisements recording their submission, will be placed shortly.

Meanwhile Highland Council's planning officials have confirmed an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for either slipway. This is good news. A Planning application has now been submitted.

Invitations to tender for the work on the slipways have gone out through PCS, the national e-tendering system funded by the Scottish Government. Responses are expected shortly.

Campsite

The design work has been completed and submitted to Highland Council. Discussions are continuing between the CCDT and the council's planning and environmental departments.

Applications have been submitted for connection to mains electricity and water.

The CCDT's offer to buy the land at Whitedykes for £1 has now been lodged formally.

David Alston Sends Greetings From...



Some will be aware that resident historian Dr. David Alston has spent the last few weeks on a research trip to Guyana. Cromart Live was delighted to receive an e-mail from him and to know that the trip was going well. David wrote: 'I've made it to the other Cromarty (Guyana). Maybe the first person from our Cromarty to be here in nearly 200 years? Yet it exists only because of the involvement of Cromarty men back then. Its people are mostly Afro-Guyanese, the descendants of enslaved Africans.' No doubt he will have a lot more to tell on his (hopefully safe) return.

Community Council Expands

Diane Brawn writes:

Following our last recruitment advert for new members for C&DCC, we are pleased to announce that we had one successful applicant. This now leaves us with only two vacant positions.

Please consider applying for co-option onto *your* CC.

The more members we have, the more effective *your* CC will be.

If you are interested, please e mail us:

cromartydistrice@gmail.com

For more information please contact any of the current CC members, details may be found on the CL website. Applications to be in by 15th March.

Resolis Riot Re-imagined

Over the winter months a posse of local folk have been preparing for a unique theatre production which will be premiered at the Crime & Thrillers Weekend on **Friday 1st May** in Victoria Hall. Performances at 2pm and 8pm.

'The Riot of Resolis' is a two-act play written by Jon Palmer which draws on detailed research of the events surrounding the Cromarty Courthouse jailbreak of 1843. The voices for the characters have been supplied by locals, many with family connections to people actually involved, and these have been recorded onto a soundtrack. The characters will then be physically represented by life-sized puppets - twelve in total - which have been produced by a small team of makers meeting once a week since the beginning of January. Original music for the production has been specially composed by Marjorie Paterson and will be performed live and woven through the narrative, making this a truly multi-layered, and home-grown, event.

Tickets are £10 (£5 children) and can be booked through Cromarty Arts Trust. Call in to Ardyne during office hours or e-mail: info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk



Interactive Art Installation at the
Lighthouse

'Bones+Stars' is an installation about women scientists which is coming to Cromarty on **21st March** (between 5pm - 9pm). It aims to encourage people to look up to the sky and down to the earth. Using sound, animation and theatre, Bones+Stars will transport audiences into the minds of historical and contemporary scientists. They will learn more about the earth and sky in interactive ways, from playing with sound sculptures to projections and puppetry.

Pop by and explore the unique Cromarty Lighthouse transformed for an afternoon into an installation celebrating women scientists. Explore this space with Mary Anning, the fossil hunter and Caroline Herschel, the astronomer and take a look at their fossil collections and planetarium. Outside the lighthouse take part in planetary pétanque or ask a local scientist about their own research. The show is suitable for all ages with lots of interactive and educational elements to engage with.

This event will run for 4 hours, with tours inside the lighthouse every 15 minutes for 8 people. There will be tea and lots of entertainment in the lighthouse courtyard for those waiting to enter the lighthouse. Only the ground floor level of the lighthouse is accessible and there are 38 steps including a ladder to the lantern room where part of the experience will take place.

Caring For Our Coastline

Anyone who is concerned about our coastal environment and wants to know how to get involved and do something practical locally, might want to read the latest news from Moray Firth Partnership [here](#) .

Business News

Post Office

On 8th February Estelle Quick celebrated 10 years in charge of the Cromarty Post Office. Local Post Offices face increasingly difficult challenges and we are extremely fortunate still to have such a service available in the town.

Our congratulations (and continuing support) go to Estelle and her team.

The Emporium...

has a new look which includes a meeting space for 6-8 persons. Judy Harvey states: 'It is a great place for a business meeting, class, craft session or book club. Evening hours available upon request. Toilet conveniently adjacent to meeting room. The larger book room can be reserved for small gatherings as well. Remember we are Dog friendly.'

The Cheese House

Now stocks butter made from Black Isle Dairy milk. 'This is the real deal and genuinely local'.

Sutor Creek

We are open daily from 12pm with lunch, afternoon and dinner menus as well as wood-fired pizza all day. In addition to our seasonal menus and pizzas, we have some beautiful home made brownies and flapjacks to go alongside our freshly ground coffee - available throughout the afternoon. And why not schedule a wee visit to Sutor Creek on your way to the cinema for a wee drink or quick pizza - make a night of it!

TASTING DINNER WITH SUTORS GIN & FUNDRAISING AUCTION

On **Friday 13th March** we are hosting a fundraising dinner & auction with the help of Sutors Gin! Cromarty resident Fiona Grist will be taking part in the Maggie's 500 mile charity cycle challenge and our dinner and auction will help raise some money for this event. Graham is working on a spectacular 5 course seasonal Tasting Dinner and Sutors Gin will be creating some fantastic gin cocktails to accompany the dinner (optional). We will end the evening with a small but very special Auction. Limited seats available for this event. £65 per person. Phone 01381 600 855 to reserve.

MOTHER'S DAY - Sunday, 22nd March

Our Sunday lunch is a lovely way to thank Mum for everything she does for you! Reservations available 12-3pm for lunch and 6-8.30pm for dinner - book online or call to reserve soon as we book up fast.

Calluna

After a couple of buying trips to Birmingham and London, our shop is now full of all the lovely clothing and accessories we chose while away. Brakeburn is proving to be an absolute customer favourite with really lovely quality, great style and fantastic prices. Pop in and have a look at their lovely new Spring ranges - their bags are proving to be hugely popular too! For all our customers who enjoy our cheeky cards, our Cheeky Box has been restocked with some absolute cracking cards and coasters (for over 18's only!). We have a wide new range of jewellery, bags and scarves that are perfect for Mother's Day gifts - and we always have our Calluna Gift Voucher if you would like her to chose for herself! We have introduced lots of lovely new brands over the last few months, if you haven't been in for a browse, pop in and we can show you what's new!

Community Market

It's Seed Potato time again at the Community Market on **Sat 14th March**, Victoria Hall, 11am - 2pm.

Bring your own bags and choose your varieties from Cromarty's allocation following the main Potato Day (in North Kessock Hall on **Sat 7th March**, 11am - 3pm, admission £1).

Each tuber costs 15p.

Community Activities

Cromarty Library

Thursday 5th March 2-4pm 'You Time Quilling Workshop' with Fran Sadler. Come along and create your own handmade card. For further information and to book a space contact Cromarty Library Tel: 600318.

Tuesday 17th March 7-8pm Join local author Nicola White to celebrate the launch of her new book "A Famished Heart". Enjoy a chat with Nicola and find out all about her new book.

Every Thursday 2.30 – 5pm. Bring your knitting, crochet, sewing or craft and join us for a cuppa, a biscuit and a blether!

Every Thursday 7-8pm. Gaelic conversation group. All levels welcome from beginners to experts.

Sunday Club

Cromarty Sunday Club will celebrate Mothering Sunday and the welcome arrival of spring on **22nd March** at 3.30pm in St Regulus Church. All children and parents are invited.

This time we hope to welcome some mums to Sunday Club as we will plant some flowers in pots and give them to those who care for us through their love, nurture and guidance - just as our Mother Church does which initially lent the name to this special day.

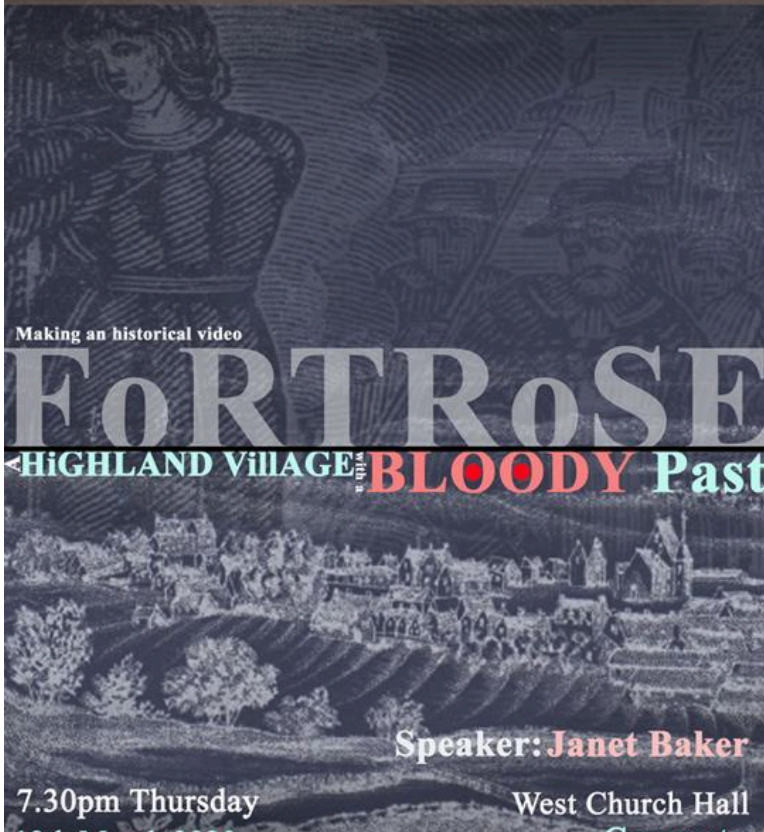
As always we will have a short play and maybe a story to go with it, plenty of baking and tea/coffee for parents happy to stay - though parents are also welcome to 'drop' their child(ren) for the session which usually lasts about 90mins.

It's fun and free so don't be shy and come along on 22nd March!

Mother and Toddler Group

West church playgroup meets every Tuesday term time 10-11.30pm £1.50 a child (2nd child £1) Suitable from birth....please Join our friendly group on a Tuesday morning, let the children play and enjoy a cuppa! Anyone in Cromarty who feels there is something they can do at our group eg arts and crafts, music, anything that will occupy small minds, please get in touch with Denise.

CROMARTY HISTORY SOCIETY
& Friends of Cromarty Courthouse



Making an historical video

FORT ROSE
HIGHLAND VILLAGE **BLOODY** Past

Speaker: **Janet Baker**

7.30pm Thursday
19th March 2020

West Church Hall
Cromarty

ALL WELCOME NON-MEMBERS £3.00 UNDER 16s FREE

www.cromartyhistory.scot

A Request From Hugh Miller

Do you have green fingers and some time to spare sharing your gardening skills with others? If so, why not consider joining our small team of gardeners at Hugh Miller's Birthplace?

Our friendly gardeners get together once a week on a Wednesday morning (weather permitting!) for an hour or so to keep the cottage garden looking beautiful.

Visitors are very complimentary about our gardens and it's all down to the dedicated work of our volunteer gardeners. Not experts, just enthusiastic gardeners who pool their knowledge and have a companionable time together.

If you are interested, please contact Alix Power-Jones, Property Manager, for more information:
millermuseum@nts.org.uk Tel: 01381-600-245

Cromarty Arts Trust

THE BRODICK QUARTET – **8th March**, The Stables.
16.00 (doors from 15.30)

We welcome back The Brodick Quartet after a hugely popular recital last year. Formed in 2016 and comprised of four of Scotland's most promising young string players, this time the quartet bring us a programme of Shostakovich and Beethoven – the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon and kick off our classical series. £13 / £11 conc / School Kids Go FREE! Tickets in advance: info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk or purchase on the door.

AIR IOMALL – **20th March**, The Stables. 20.00 (doors from 19.30)

Charlie Grey and Joseph Peach make music on the piano and fiddle. They are Scottish folk musicians, interested in making music filled with spontaneity, sensitivity and freedom. Their performance will feature a screening of Air Iomall - a film and suite of new music, inspired by a voyage aboard the tall ship Wylde Swan to some now uninhabited islands deep in the North Atlantic, some of Scotland's most remote, and remarkable places. Tickets in advance: info@cromartyartstrust.org.uk or purchase on the door.

UKULELE WEEKEND – **21st & 22nd March**, The Stables

A weekend of fun workshops and sessions. Brand new, varied workshops throughout the weekend including Complete Beginner and Improver classes. We can even supply the uke! Book as many or few as you wish and lunch/dinner options too. See our website for prices, timings and booking form. www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk

Coming up in early April... DRUMMING DAY, **Sat 4th April** - rhythm fun for everyone from tots to grannies! Book early to avoid disappointment.

And finally...

After an extremely successful opening, what we trust will be a regular feature: YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE CINEMA!

Date Time Film Rating

MARCH

Sun 1 15.00 Talking About Trees PG

Tue 3 15.00 Emma** PG

Fri 6 19.30 Military Wives 12

Sat 7 15.00 Dolittle PG

Sun 8 15.00 A Hidden Life 12A

Tue 10 19.30 Down the Rabbit Hole*** 15

Fri 13 19.30 Run 15

Thu 19 19.30 Push N/A

Fri 20 19.30 Greed 15

Sat 21 15.00 The Call of the Wild PG

Sun 22 15.00 Portrait of a Lady on Fire 15

Tue 24 19.30 True History of the Kelly Gang 18

Thu 26 19.30 Booksmart* 15

Fri 27 19.30 1917 15

Sat 28 15.00 Sonic the Hedgehog PG

19.30 1917** 15

Sun 29 15.00 Cunningham U

Tue 31 19.30 Dark Waters 12A

APRIL

Fri 3 19.30 The Truth PG

Sat 4 15.00 Children's film

Sun 5 15.00 And Then We Danced 15

*2019 CRFS Members get priority ** captioned for hard of hearing
*** Q+A with Director

Adults - £7.50 Under 26 - £5.00 Friends - £6.00

CURRENTLY NO BOOKING SYSTEM - PAY AT DOOR -
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED Doors open 30 mins prior
to film time. For film descriptions/info, see website.

To hire or become a Friend, details on website and
Ingrid's House, Church St, Cromarty.

www.cromartycinema.com

Harbour Access Road, Cromarty, IV11 8XZ

info@cromartycinema.com

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